



# DAVE YOST

OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

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May 17, 2019

***Via Email to 72551-96670949@requests.muckrock.com***

Muckrock News Dept.  
MR 72551  
411A Highland Ave.  
Somerville, MA 02144

Re: Your Public Records Request (#19-068)

Dear Sir or Madame,

I am writing in response to the public records request you submitted to the Ohio Attorney General's Office dated May 3, 2019. Your request is enclosed for your reference.

Please note that this office is denying your request as overly broad because it does not provide enough information to allow us to identify responsive records based on the manner in which this office organizes and accesses the records it keeps. "[I]t is the responsibility of the person who wishes to inspect and/or copy records to identify with reasonable clarity the records at issue." *State ex rel. Zidonis v. Columbus State Cmty. College*, 133 Ohio St.3d 122, 2012-Ohio-4228, 976 N.E.2d 861, ¶ 21. In addition, a public office has no duty to "seek out and retrieve those records which would contain the information of interest to the requester." *State ex rel. Fant v. Tober*, 8th Dist. No. 63737 (Apr. 28, 1993), *aff'd* 68 Ohio St.3d 117, 623 N.E.2d 1202 (1993). A requester must identify the records sought so that the public office can identify responsive records based on the manner in which it ordinarily maintains and accesses the public records it keeps. *State ex rel. Zauderer v. Joseph*, 62 Ohio App.3d 752 (10th Dist. 1989). Further, the Ohio Supreme Court has explained that a request for "any and all records...containing any reference whatsoever to [a particular person]" is overly broad. *State ex rel. Dillery v. Icsman*, 92 Ohio St.3d 312, 314, 750 N.E.2d 156 (2001). Your request, which is attached, is similarly overbroad.

In general, the Ohio Attorney General's Office organizes its records by service division and by case name or overarching topic to which the record relates. The current records retention schedules for the Attorney General's Office, which further demonstrate how records are ordinarily maintained and accessed by our office, can be found on our office's website at: <http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/About-Ag/Public-Records-Access>. You can also find a listing of the various service divisions of our office, including descriptions of what they each do, on our website at <https://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/About-AG/Service-Divisions>. We would be happy to work with you to revise your request so that we are able identify the records you seek based on the manner in which public records are organized and maintained by the Ohio Attorney General's Office. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this

response, or in the even you would like to revise your request, please feel free to contact the Public Records Unit at (614) 466-2872.

Very respectfully yours,

*MacKenzie S. Clayton*

MacKenzie S. Clayton  
Paralegal – Public Records Unit

cc: Sarah E. Pierce, Assistant Attorney General, Public Records Unit